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Prashant Kishor Makes Stellar Electoral Debut, Wins BJP's Stronghold Bankipur



Patna: Prashant Kishor used to help others win elections. Now he has won one himself. That too, in a BJP stronghold in a BJP-ruled state, in a seat represented by BJP chief Nitin Nabin over several terms. A former poll strategist who now heads the Jan Suraj Party (JSP), Kishor has become the newest MLA from Bankipur in Bihar. After his poll victory, Kishor promised reporters immediate improvements in Bankipur. "In 3 months, you will see a visible change in Bankipur. But for that, you will have to give me 3 months," he said. "My doors are open not only for the people of Bankipur, but for the entire Bihar...I have not done something extraordinary here, but still demolished the BJP's stronghold of 30 years in just 30 days," he added. He also thanked the voters of Bankipur and vowed to work for the development of Bihar. "The people of Bihar have sent a message to the BJP's central leadership that they should appoint a good person as the chief minister of Bihar. They do not want a person with a criminal background or questionable

conduct, character, or reputation to lead Bihar," Kishor told reporters in Patna. Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary congratulated Kishor for his poll triumph. "In the grand festival of democracy, the people have chosen Jan Suraj in the Bankipur Assembly by-election. Respecting this decision of the people, I heartily congratulate Prashant Kishor on his victory," he wrote in Hindi on X. The election follows massive student protests in Delhi's Jantar Mantar that sent ripples through the country, with Gen Z and their issues emerging as crucial in the

election discourse. Known for its young demographic and home to several institutes, Bankipur had been on the radar of political pundits, who had been gauging the impact of Gen Z anger on this Patna seat.

Why Bankipur Made National Headlines

Otherwise a nondescript assembly segment falling under the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha segment, Bankipur has grabbed all the limelight this bypoll round. There are multiple reasons for this sudden and overnight popularity. The most prominent would be the fact that Bankipur had been a BJP

stronghold for decades. It had nurtured a leader over several terms who went on to become the BJP's national president. Nabin vacated the seat as he moved to the Rajya Sabha. The contest became even more interesting with Kishor throwing his hat in the ring and the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the education minister amid the student protests. Some analysts suggested the election would be a test of Bihar's Gen Z voters and how they could influence an election. Nabin, however, had ruled out any big impact on Bankipur.

Mohan Bhagwat To Interact With Gen Z, Gen Alpha In Mumbai On August 6

New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will have a session with Gen Z and Gen Alpha on August 6 at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC), Mumbai.

As per the release, this event will commemorate India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) 15th anniversary with the inaugural ceremony of its Annual Championship Conference, bringing together over 2,000 high school students from over 100 cities across India. The participants, aged

between 15 and 19 years, represent schools and colleges for what is one of the largest youth-led congregations. Commenting on the occasion, Rishabh Shah, Founder, IIMUN, said, "Leadership is not only about guiding the next generation, but also listening to it. At this critical juncture in India's journey, we need this dialogue more than ever before. I am grateful to Mohan Bhagwat ji for accepting our invite to address this gathering at this critical juncture." Bhagwat's address will mark the beginning of IIMUN's flagship



Annual Championship Conference, where students debate and deliberate on local, national and international issues. Every year, IIMUN organises 108 conferences and thousands of civic engagements and community

interventions led entirely by young people aged 15-24 for students aged 11-19. The inaugural ceremony will be centred around the theme "The Role of Youth in Uniting the World, the Indian Way."

NEET Paper Leak Dominates Punjab Assembly Session, AAP Attacks BJP

Chandigarh: The Punjab Assembly witnessed a stormy debate over examination paper leaks, with the Aam Aadmi Party government targeting the BJP-led Centre over the NEET controversy while the Congress cornered the Punjab government over alleged paper leaks in the state. The Assembly passed a censure motion against the Centre over the NEET paper leak

issue, with the ruling AAP accusing the Union government of failing to protect the future of lakhs of students. Participating in the debate, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the NEET controversy was "not merely a paper leak but the sale of question papers." He alleged that 93 examination papers had been leaked across the country since 2014 and claimed

that the highest number of such cases had occurred in BJP-ruled states. Calling the issue "an attack on the future of students," Mann said the protests at Jantar Mantar reflected the anger of students and their parents. He said that protesters demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister were met with lathi-charge, water cannons and pellet guns.



Minister Vasanthshetty Subhash Extends Support; Surgery Arranged for Boy Suffering from Fanconi Anemia



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 3: Andhra Pradesh Minister Vasanthshetty Subhash has

extended support to a young boy suffering from Fanconi Anemia by facilitating his life-saving treat-

ment. The minister completed arrangements for a bone marrow transplant costing approximately Rs.20 lakh. The surgery for Charan Teja Pawan is scheduled to be performed at Basavatakrakam Hospital in Hyderabad. The bone marrow collection process from the donor has already been completed successfully. Minister Subhash took special initiative to help the financially disadvantaged family receive the required medical treatment.

With the support of donors and charitable organizations, the minister mobilized funds for the treatment. He also arranged financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh from the Sahara Health and Development Society. The minister expressed gratitude to the doctors and the hospital management involved in the treatment and wished for the bone marrow transplant to be successful. He also prayed for Charan Teja Pawan to make a full and speedy recovery.

Minister Savitha Issues Key Advisory to Eligible Beneficiaries of 'Nethanna Sevalo' Scheme

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 3: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Handlooms and Textiles Savitha held a review meeting with officials of the department on Monday afternoon to assess the implementation and action plan for the 'Nethanna Sevalo' scheme. During the meeting, the minister instructed officials on the scheme's implementation and appealed to eligible handloom workers to submit their applications by 5:00 PM on August 5. Minister Savitha urged all eligible handloom workers to apply within the stipulated deadline so they

could receive the financial assistance being provided by the government. She announced that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will officially launch the 'Nethanna Sevalo' scheme on August 7 in Chirala, Guntur district, on the occasion of National Handloom Day. Under the scheme, eligible handloom workers will receive Rs.25,000 in annual financial assistance. The minister said that although the scheme was not included as an election promise, the NDA coalition government had decided to implement it. She added that ensuring a



dignified livelihood for handloom workers is one of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's key objectives.

The minister also instructed officials to implement the scheme in a trans-

parent and efficient manner, leaving no room for allegations or criticism. She directed them to prepare a foolproof implementation plan to ensure that no errors occur during execution.

Development Initiatives Do Not Appeal to Jagan: MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu

New Delhi, August 3 : Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Vizianagaram MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu strongly criticized YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he does not appreciate developmental activities taking place in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Monday, the MP said there was growing public discussion about Jagan's conduct. He alleged that Jagan was claiming through his media outlets that the Bhogapuram International Airport was his achievement. Appalanaidu further alleged that just hours before the airport's inauguration, Jagan toured North Andhra in an attempt to create issues. He questioned what Jagan had achieved through his North Andhra visit.

visit to Bhogapuram. He noted that the Bhogapuram International Airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1. On behalf of the people of North Andhra, he expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and stated that the airport was dedicated to the nation in the presence of nearly 300,000 people. The MP further said that the airport project had been completed ahead of schedule.

'Bhogapuram Airport Will Be a Game Changer



for North Andhra' Appalanaidu described the Bhogapuram International Airport as a game changer for North Andhra.

He said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was responsibly fulfilling the promises made to the people and that North Andhra's development was accelerating under his leadership. The MP further claimed that the inauguration of the airport would reduce migration from the region by creating local employment opportunities. He added that the NDA alliance had achieved a significant milestone by completing the Bhogapuram Airport project.

Good News for Farmers: Deadline for Kharif Crop Insurance Extended

Amaravati, August 3: The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced good news for farmers by extending the deadline for Kharif Crop Insurance enrollment. The government stated that the registration deadline for Kharif crop insurance has been extended by 15 more days. The original deadline, which was scheduled to end on July 31, has now been extended to enable more farmers to enroll. The Andhra Pradesh Government said the crop insurance scheme provides financial protection against crop losses caused by natural calamities, floods, and drought. The government also stated that farmers can avail themselves of crop insurance by paying a premium of just Rs.1. Farmers who have not yet registered have been urged to complete their enrollment at the earliest and insure every acre under cultivation. Registration can be completed through banks, Common Service Centres (CSCs), Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs), or the NCIP mobile application, the government said.

Tragedy at the Coast: Two Missing After Huge Wave Sweeps Friends at Gangavaram Beach

From Our Staff Reporter Gajuwaka: What began as a joyful Friendship Day outing ended in tragedy after a massive wave swept away two people at Gangavaram Beach. A group of seven friends had gathered at the beach to celebrate Friendship Day. After spending several hours there, six of them climbed onto a rocky outcrop to record a final video before leaving, while another friend stayed behind to film them. Suddenly, a powerful wave struck the rocks, scattering the group. A 19-year-old woman, Surakala Neethu, and Gurajala Damodar alias Ramu (31) were swept away by the sea, while the remaining four became trapped between the rocks. The friend recording the video, Dosuri Suresh, managed to rescue the four who were stranded.



How the Incident Occurred

According to the police, Surakala Neethu, Dosuri Suresh, Dosuri Kanaka Mahalakshmi, Dosuri Hasini, Peddagada Raju, Surakala Mandira, and Gurajala Damodar alias Ramu, a resident of Purushottampuram near

Pendurthi, had planned the outing in advance. The group reached Old Gangavaram Beach at around 7:30 a.m. and spent time enjoying the beach until about 10:00 a.m. Before leaving, six friends climbed onto the rocks for one last video while Suresh filmed them. Moments later, a huge

wave hit the rocks, knocking everyone off balance. Neethu and Ramu were swept into the sea, while the other four became trapped between rocks before being rescued. Watching two of their friends disappear into the sea before their eyes left the remaining members devastated.

EDITORIAL

Strengthening India's Public Health Law

To promote greater uniformity across the country, the Government of India has proposed model legislations such as the Model Public Health Bill, 1987, the National Public Health Bill, 2002, and the National Health Bill, 2009. While these draft laws address issues such as sanitation, water supply, markets, food safety, and the control of communicable diseases, they are not comprehensive enough to deal with emerging challenges such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emerging infectious diseases, climate change, environmental pollution, and rapid urbanization. Traditional public health laws have largely followed a command-and-control approach based on the principle that governments may impose certain restrictions on individual freedoms to protect public welfare. Public health is not merely a system for treating diseases. It is both the science and the art of preventing disease, extending life expectancy, and promoting health through the collective efforts of society. Public health laws define how governments, local bodies, and communities should work together, while specifying their powers and responsibilities. At the same time, these laws must protect fundamental rights such as personal liberty, privacy, and property rights, placing appropriate limits on governmental authority. Organizations including the American Public Health Association (APHA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have identified essential public health functions such as disease surveillance, sanitation, food safety, safe drinking water, health education, and disease prevention as the foundation of a healthy society.

Although these services are often invisible to the public, they form the backbone of every health system. Weak public health systems inevitably lead to preventable diseases and avoidable deaths. Public health outcomes depend not only on healthcare services but also on sanitation, drinking water, environmental protection, education, nutrition, and urban planning. This is why strong legal frameworks are essential for effective public health governance.

Public health legislation generally falls into two categories: Infrastructure laws, which establish public health institutions and authorize data collection, inspections, licensing, and regulatory enforcement. Intervention laws, which provide legal authority for measures such as prohibiting tobacco sales to minors, enforcing food safety standards, and implementing quarantine during infectious disease outbreaks. India's ability to manage public health emergencies continues to be constrained by outdated laws, a shortage of trained public health professionals, and weaknesses in implementation.

Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, legislative powers concerning public health are divided between the Union and the States. Subjects such as hospitals, sanitation, and drinking water primarily fall under state jurisdiction, whereas population control, mental health, food safety, communicable disease control, and labour welfare fall within the Concurrent List, allowing both Parliament and State Legislatures to enact laws. Where conflicts arise, Union law prevails.

The Supreme Court of India has interpreted Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution to recognize the right to health as an integral component of the right to life. Furthermore, the Directive Principles of State Policy require governments to improve nutrition, living standards, environmental protection, and public health. Since Independence, responsibility for public health legislation has largely remained with the states. Only a few states have enacted dedicated public health laws, many of which are several decades old. The Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939, for example, has undergone numerous amendments but still reflects an earlier public health era. Although the Union Government proposed model public health legislation in 1987, 2002, and 2009, these drafts focused mainly on sanitation, water supply, food safety, markets, and communicable diseases. They do not adequately address modern threats such as antimicrobial resistance, newly emerging infections, climate-related health risks, environmental degradation, and accelerating urbanization. Traditional public health legislation relied heavily on compulsory regulation, recognizing that governments may impose restrictions to protect society from collective threats such as pollution, contaminated food, and infectious diseases. Modern public health thinking, however, increasingly emphasizes a rights-based approach. Public health interventions should be lawful, evidence-based, scientifically justified, proportionate, and limited to what is necessary. Government action should respect individual liberty, privacy, and human dignity while safeguarding community health. India today faces complex challenges, including demographic transition, rapid urbanization, environmental crises, and the growing threat of emerging diseases. In this context, incremental amendments to outdated legislation are no longer sufficient. The country requires a modern, comprehensive public health law that integrates public health infrastructure, emergency preparedness, digital surveillance, inter-sectoral coordination, transparent governance, and protection of citizens' rights. Although maintaining a balance between collective welfare and individual freedoms remains a significant challenge, only a scientifically grounded, constitutionally consistent, and human rights-oriented public health law can provide a strong foundation for building a healthier, safer, and more resilient India.

Kangana Ranaut Is Fast Running Out Of Enemies To Pick On

Kangana Ranaut rarely enters a controversy quietly. She arrives as though the cameras have already begun rolling, the lighting has been arranged, and the antagonist has been identified. Her latest intervention in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation was no exception. Last week, the actor-turned-parliamentarian described the youth protest reels as "puke-inducing", asked who was "birthing and raising" such young people, compared their conduct to filth and garbage, and coined the expression "Generation Gutter". CJP spokesperson Saurav Das responded by questioning her seriousness as a Parliamentarian. Kangana then left the issue of examinations, police action, and youth unemployment behind and turned on Das personally. She called him "useless and unemployed", advised him to learn a skill, and reminded him that by his age, she had already won two National Awards. Das countered with humour, saying friends had told him that he resembled a young Hrithik Roshan. A significant confrontation between the state and its young citizens was converted into a public quarrel complete with personal insults, career comparisons, and an old Bollywood jibe. Just days later, she posted another video on X, asking why Hindu women "faced criticism" for embracing their religion, going as far as to say that "Hindu sisters" in the industry did not have an ideological stand on politics and religion. "...They are very neutral. But as they come in contact with the Muslims, their thinking becomes so defined that they become leftist," she said. This is classic



Kangana. She does not merely comment on an argument. She annexes it.

The She-Wolf And Her Stage

Is there a method in this madness? Almost certainly. Kangana has spent years cultivating the image of the 'lupa', the lone she-wolf who survives without a pack. It is an image rooted partly in truth. She came to Mumbai without a film dynasty behind her, endured early struggles, developed into an actress of formidable range, and won some of Indian cinema's highest honours. She matured into an artiste capable of carrying a film and creating women who were vulnerable without being weak. Her insurgent persona also answered a genuine unease within Hindi cinema. When she spoke against nepo-

tism and the clubby nature of Bollywood, she articulated the resentment of many talented outsiders. But rebellion, once rewarded, can easily become an addiction. The she-wolf image has served Kangana well, but it has also trapped her. A film set can revolve around one commanding performer. Politics cannot. Parliament is founded upon negotiation, numbers, restraint, alliances, and the inconvenient legitimacy of people one may dislike. Kangana is now an elected Lok Sabha member from Mandi, not simply a celebrity supporter of the BJP. She sits on Parliament's Committee on Communications and Information Technology. Her words consequently carry institutional weight, whether her party likes them or not.

While writing Neta Abhineta:

Bollywood Star Power in Indian Politics, I was struck by the many motives that draw film personalities towards public life. Some possess a genuine sense of service. Some are recruited because parties value their glamour. Others enter politics when the arc lights have begun to dim, hoping that electoral power will give them the relevance, permanence, and public attention that cinema can no longer guarantee. The history of film stars in Indian politics ranges from social commitment to the quest for a second innings in fame. Cinema offers immortality, but it is an uncertain immortality. The Friday box office is merciless. Roles diminish, younger stars arrive, and yesterday's phenomenon becomes today's nostalgia. Politics appears to offer something more durable: an of-

ficial car, a constituency, a party platform, parliamentary privilege, and a place in the public record. Yet, politics makes demands that stardom does not. An actor addresses an audience that has bought a ticket. A politician addresses citizens who owe her neither applause nor affection. An actor may choose their roles. An MP inherits grievances, disappointed supporters, and voters who will insist upon being heard. Amitabh Bachchan learnt this difference early. When he entered the Lok Sabha as a Congress MP, his cinematic popularity appeared almost limitless. But during the years of the Assam student unrest, he reportedly encountered a revealing sentiment: "We like you as an actor, but not as a Congress MP."

17 Dead, 166 Trapped: How Indian Seafarers Became 'Collateral' In Others' Wars

The Russia-Ukraine war has intensified over the past two weeks, killing more than two dozen people and destroying energy infrastructure, buildings, and ships. Five Indian seamen also died in attacks on ships in the Black Sea, and two others remain missing. Thirteen Indian seafarers have been stranded aboard MV AMIRI in a Black Sea port in Ukraine for a week, under the continuing threat of missile and drone attacks, according to the All India Seafarers Union (AISU). Although Kyiv has blamed Moscow for the stranded Indian sailors, a few days back, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the Ukrainian ambassador over an attack on a ship on July 18 that killed one Indian. A week earlier, the Russian envoy was summoned after four Indians were killed in an attack on a cargo ship near the port of Odesa. In addition to the five deaths in the Black Sea, at least 16 Indians, including 10 seafarers, have been killed in attacks on ships in the Middle East since the start of the Iran war, the government told Parliament last week. Seventeen seafarers have so far lost their lives, of whom more than half were Indian. These sailors have come under attack from both Iranian and American forces. Attacks on commercial ships are illegal under international law, but that hasn't stopped the warring parties in the Black Sea and the Persian Gulf from targeting them, creating one of the worst international shipping crises in history. At least 6,000 seafarers remain trapped on more than 400 ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Of them, 166 are Indians, according to the MEA, though AISU says their number is much higher. At the height of the war in March, there were 20,000 sailors on 2,000 ships. After the ceasefire

in April and the US-Iran MoU in June, brief reopenings reduced their number. The sailors still stuck there describe their plight as even worse than the Covid-19 pandemic days, because, despite being trapped at sea for months, they were not facing missile and drone attacks during the pandemic.

Disproportionate Indian Casualties

It's true that many more Iranian sailors have died since the conflict began at the end of February. Eighty-four were killed by a US torpedo strike in the Indian Ocean in March alone. But for a country not involved in the war, so many deaths among Indian seafarers are unacceptable. More than 60 ships carrying seafarers have been attacked since the start of the war, with an alarming rise in such incidents in July. Last week, an LPG tanker with a 28-member Indian crew was attacked. Although all were later found safe, it must have been a harrowing experience for them. India has now banned the deployment of its citizens on any ship heading to Hormuz.

But the ban doesn't address the plight of Indian seafarers already trapped in the Gulf or the Black Sea. It also won't console the families of those who died in the two conflicts. The families are still waiting to learn why and how their loved ones died, and why these non-combatants, who worked day and night to support the world economy, had to become collateral in the conflict. For example, there is still anger against the United States, whose missile attack on the ship MT Settebello on June 10 killed three Indian sailors: Suresh Patnala, the chief engineer, Shivanand Chaurasia, a fitter, and Aditya Sharma, a trainee cadet.

Several American naval warfare experts who reviewed foot-



age of the strike released by the US military told The New York Times that the ship appeared to be drifting or at rest, with no indication it was moving. Dr Ian Rabby, president of the maritime governance NGO Auxilium Worldwide, told the paper, "You disable a vessel that is actively in violation - as in, it is underway. Why shoot out the engine room if the engines aren't even running?" This casts doubt on the legality of the US military's action. Indian seamen's unions are demanding compensation from the Trump government and an independent investigation into what they call a war crime.

What Can The Government Do?

Not much, really. However, the Indian government lodged a diplomatic protest with the US over the attacks on MT Settebello. The External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, raised the issue with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Prime Minister Modi also raised it with Trump. But no apology was received, prompting more anger. Some critics have drawn parallels with NATO's bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999, which the US

said was an accident. However, the US had apologised then, even when China was less powerful at that time than it is now. It also reportedly paid Beijing \$32.5 million in compensation. That incident made Beijing more assertive in its dealings with the US. In contrast, the MEA didn't even summon the American ambassador, Sergio Goro, to register its protest, critics noted. India did summon, though, the US charge d'affaires (CDA) twice. Even Russia, known as India's friend, asserted after the killing of four Indian seafarers that it won't stop attacks on Black Sea ships, which it believes carry weapons for Ukraine. A Kremlin spokesman claimed it had explained Moscow's position to Delhi. In recent weeks, Ukraine has also stepped up attacks on Russian ships, both naval and commercial. It has bombed 150 tankers, cargo ships, and other vessels linked to Russia's shadow fleet in the Sea of Azov and Black Sea, according to Kyiv Post. A week ago, it attacked an Iranian cargo ship in the Caspian Sea, accusing Tehran of supplying military equipment. That attack killed one Iranian sailor and raised

the risk of widening the Ukraine conflict. The move was also an attempt to seek favour with Trump. If that conflict expands, Indian seafarers will also be hit.

India Is The Second-Largest Seafarer Supplier

Seafarers expect more from the government, as Indian sailors play an increasingly significant role in the global shipping industry. India has now become the second-largest supplier of seafarers after the Philippines, contributing 311,936, according to the latest BIMCO-ICS Seafarer report released in June. India's share of the global maritime workforce has more than doubled in five years, from 6% to 12.16%. The Indian government plans to increase it to 20% by 2030. With demand for Indian seafarers rising, that's an achievable target, provided they feel more secure in their chosen profession. But threats to their lives are only increasing. On June 20, Iran's allies, the Houthis in Yemen, announced a blockade and launched attacks on ships passing through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, which links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Collector Reviews Arrangements for 80th Independence Day Celebrations

ONGOLE, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to organise the 80th Independence Day celebrations on August 15 at the Police Parade Ground in a grand manner, reflecting patriotism, development, and welfare. Reviewing preparations with SP V. Harsh Vardhan Raju, the Collector instructed departments to set up welfare stalls, display thematic tableaux, and organise cultural programmes promoting national unity and harmony. The SP said comprehensive security arrangements, police band performances, and ceremonial parade preparations are being made to ensure the smooth conduct of the celebrations.



No Need to Worry if Name is Missing from Draft Voter List: Collector



VIJAYAWADA, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District Collector and District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmisha urged citizens not to worry if their names are missing from the draft electoral roll, stating that claims and objections can be submitted until August 30. He said eligible voters can apply for new registration, corrections, or address changes through the concerned BLO, Tahsildar, AERO, or ERO offices. A total of 29,361 duplicate entries were identified during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The final electoral roll will be published on October 3, 2026, after completing the verification process. Eligible citizens aged 18 years and above were advised to register using Form-6.

Collector Reviews Arrangements for 80th Independence Day Celebrations



Rajamahendravaram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to organise the 80th Independence Day celebrations on August 15 with patriotic spirit and national pride. At a review meeting, the Collector instructed departments to ensure smooth arrangements, including

the ceremonial parade, cultural programmes by students, thematic tableaux, exhibition stalls, and felicitation of officials for distinguished service. The celebrations will be held at the Government Arts College Grounds, with the designated Minister attending as the chief guest.

Resolving Public Grievances is Government's Priority: Collector



Vijayawada, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the state government's priority is the speedy and transparent resolution of public grievances. A total of 189 petitions, including 78 related to the Revenue Department, were received during the PGRS programme held at the Collectorate on Monday. The Collector directed officials to give top priority to pending petitions, expedite land and survey-related cases, and promptly address complaints received through the 1100 toll-free service and the Chief Minister's Office. He also instructed officials to ensure timely fertilizer availability and complete all sanctioned farm pond works within a month.

Collector Urges Vigilance Amid El Niño, Directs Timely Irrigation

KAKINADA, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to ensure rotational irrigation for farmers under the Yeleru reservoir ayacut to minimise the impact of El Niño and prevent crop losses. Reviewing Kharif preparedness on Monday, he instructed officials to achieve 100% crop insurance registration by August 14, encourage alternative crops in water-scarce areas, accelerate e-Crop booking, canal desilting, and water conservation works. He also ordered timely disposal of revenue grievances and early distribution of printed Pattadar Passbooks.



Vignan Launches SkillForge Club to Boost Technical Skills

Visakhapatnam, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): The Department of Computer Science and Engineering – Data Science at Vignan Institute of Information Technology, Duvvada, launched the SkillForge Club to promote technical skills, creativity, and innovation among students.



JC Vaishali Stresses Speedy Resolution of Revenue Issues and Re-Survey

Parvathipuram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power):

Joint Collector R. Vaishali directed revenue officials to give top priority to the speedy resolution of revenue-related grievances and the completion of land re-survey works within the stipulated timeframe. Speaking at a review meeting with Tahsildars at the Collectorate on Monday, she instructed officials to closely monitor re-survey activities and avoid any delays. The JC also emphasized the prompt disposal of petitions received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and other pending revenue applications. Special attention should be given to boundary disputes and corrections in revenue records to ensure farmers do not face difficulties. Sub-Collector Pawar Swapnil Jagannath and RDO Madhuri reviewed the progress of re-survey works and discussed field-level challenges with officials.



Every Student a Guardian of Nature: 'ASR Aranya' Launched in Araku



PADERU, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Alluri Sitarama Raju District Collector T. Nishanthi launched the 'ASR Aranya' initiative at the new Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) campus in Araku Valley to promote environmental awareness among students. She planted a sapling and urged every student to take responsibility for protecting nature. The Collector said the district's rich forest cover must be preserved and encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. DFO Uma Maheshwari announced that 'ASR Aranya Clubs' will be established in schools across the district under the "One Student – One Tree" campaign, with activities including plantation drives, biodiversity awareness, seed-ball preparation, and eco-tourism visits.

No Permission for Bandhs or Rallies on August 7–9: ASR District SP

Paderu, Aug. 3 (Pen Power):

Alluri Sitharama Raju District SP Amit Bardar announced that no permission has been granted for bandhs, rallies, road blockades, or protest programmes on August 7, 8, and 9, despite calls reportedly given by some organisations. He warned that organising or participating in such events without prior police permission, disrupting public life, or forcing the closure of government offices, educational institutions, or businesses is illegal and will invite strict action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other applicable laws. The SP urged the public not to believe rumours or misinformation on social media and to continue their daily activities normally while cooperating with the police in maintaining law and order.



Speaker Calls for Tough Action Against Ganja Smugglers

Anakapalli, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu called for strict action against ganja smugglers, saying only tough enforcement can curb the illegal drug trade. Speaking at the Sankalpam 2.0 anti-drug awareness programme in Narsipatnam, he urged police to crack down on drug peddlers and seize their assets. Film actor Brahmaji and Anakapalli SP Tuhin Sinha also appealed to students to stay away from drugs and report any information related to narcotics. Around 1,500 students participated in the awareness programme.



125 Complaints Received at City Police PGRS



Visakhapatnam, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): A total of 125 complaints were received during the weekly Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) held at the City Police Conference Hall on Monday. City Police Commissioner Dr. Shankhabrata grievance, personally reviewed the petitions, interacted with complainants, and directed ACPs, Inspectors, and SIs, who participated via video conference, to take prompt legal action. The complaints mainly related to family disputes, land disputes, matrimonial issues, cheating, and civil matters. The Commissioner instructed officials to ensure speedy and lawful resolution of all grievances.

Collector Warns Against Negligence in Secretariat Services

KAKINADA, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to ensure transparent, timely, and efficient delivery of services through village and ward secretariats. Reviewing welfare schemes and development programmes via video conference on Monday, he warned that negligence or failure to achieve targets would invite strict action. The Collector instructed officials to clear pending "Talliki Vandanam" applications, strengthen MeeSeva services, accelerate e-KYC, Aadhaar enrolment, Aksharandhra, sanitation, employment, and Jal Jeevan Mission works, and complete all assigned targets within the stipulated time.



Aditya University Launches Five-Day IoT & AI Workshop

GANDEPALLI, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Aditya University's Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning launched a five-day hands-on workshop titled "Build Smart Solutions: IoT & AI with ESP32" on Monday. The workshop, running from August 3 to 7, is led by resource person Babuji Kanaparthi, Founder of Appleton Innovation.

University officials said the programme will equip students with practical skills in IoT, AI, ESP32 programming, sensor integration, cloud communication, and smart application development, enhancing their industry readiness and innovation capabilities.



Fishermen Face Severe Injustice Under Coalition Government

Bureau Report | Pen Power | Visakhapatnam | August 2: Fishermen leader and YSRCP State Secretary G.V. Ramachandra Rao has alleged that the TDP-Jana Sena coalition government has completely neglected the welfare of fishermen since assuming office. He criticized Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, stating that while they had strongly voiced fishermen's issues when in the opposition, they have now failed to address their hardships after coming to power. Ramachandra Rao expressed disappointment that during their recent visit to Visakhapatnam to inspect the ongoing works at the Bhogapuram International Airport, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister did not even visit the families of the fishermen who lost their lives in the recent fishing boat accident at sea. He said that merely announcing compensation is not enough, and that the government has a responsibility to personally console the bereaved families, understand their suffering, and provide them with confidence and support. He pointed out that many coastal countries across the world have implemented special measures to ensure the safety of

fishermen, whereas in Andhra Pradesh adequate protection for fishermen's lives is still lacking. He urged the government to act with sincerity and immediately introduce effective safety measures to prevent marine accidents. Ramachandra Rao further demanded that every fisherman going out to sea should be provided with mandatory insurance coverage, with the participation and support of industries that benefit from the state's coastal resources. He called upon fishermen to unite and fight for their rights and safety, assuring them that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) would extend its full support to every legitimate movement undertaken for the welfare and protection of the fishing community.



Post-Flood Restoration is Top Priority: Collector Dinesh Kumar

Rampachodavaram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): With floodwaters receding, Alluri Sitharama Raju District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar has directed officials to accelerate post-flood restoration works across the affected areas.

Reviewing the flood situation with officials at Kunavaram on Monday, the Collector said 2,200 people are being sheltered in 118 relief camps, where food, accommodation, medical care, and mosquito nets have been provided. He said 12,400 flood-affected families are being supplied with 25 kg of rice, red gram dal, onions, potatoes, and one litre of cooking oil, while September ration supplies will also be distributed in advance. The Collector said 47 roads were affected by flooding and are being cleared on a war footing. Of the 9,000 disrupted power connections, nearly 60% have been restored, with the remaining expected to be reconnected by the end of the day. Emphasising disease prevention, he instructed officials to launch intensive sanitation drives, chlorination, mosquito control measures, and



door-to-door health surveys to prevent malaria, dengue,

typhoid, and other water-borne diseases. He also assured residents that the district administration would remain in the flood-affected region until restoration is complete. Later, the Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar and other officials, distributed essential commodities to flood victims at Tekubaka village and assured them of continued government support.

Crop Insurance Enrollment Deadline Extended to August 15



Guntur, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma announced that the deadline for crop insurance enrollment has been extended to August 15 to ensure maximum farmer participation. He directed officials to intensify awareness campaigns so that all eligible farmers enroll. At a review meeting, the Collector also advised farmers to consider alternative crops and natural farming in view of possible water scarcity due to El Niño. He instructed officials to expedite CCR card issuance to tenant farmers, resolve pending land cases, strengthen sanitation and drinking water supply, and ensure timely disposal of applications under the "Thalliki Vandanam" scheme.

Government Aims to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship: Minister Kandula Durgesh

Rajamahendravaram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the state offers a favourable environment for business and that the government is committed to supporting young entrepreneurs and industrialists. Speaking at the preparatory meeting for Global Business Meet - Samakhya 2026, the Minister unveiled the event poster and encouraged youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. He said the government's Tourism Policy 2024-29 and support for MSMEs, startups, and major investment projects would help accelerate industrial and economic growth in the state.



Sahasra Ghattabhishekam Held with Grandeur at Kotappakonda Temple



Narasaraopet, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): The Sahasra Ghattabhishekam of Lord Trikoteswara Swamy was celebrated with religious fervour at the famous Kotappakonda Temple in Palnadu district on Monday. Thousands of devotees participated in the sacred ritual and offered special prayers. Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu attended the ceremony as the chief guest and took part in the special rituals. He said the government is committed to the development of the temple and to improving facilities for devotees.

Today's Saplings, Tomorrow's Trees': Collector Launches Green Initiative

'Paderu, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Alluri Sitharama Raju District Collector T. Nishanthi and District Forest Officer K. Umamaheswari launched the "Alluri District-Aranya" plantation programme at Bondam Majjivalasa village in Araku Valley on Monday to promote environmental conservation among students. The Collector planted a sapling and urged students to protect nature by planting and nurturing at least eight saplings each. She directed Forest Department officials to conduct the programme in schools across the district to create awareness on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.



Photography Contest Entries Invited in NTR District

Vijayawada, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has invited photojournalists, studio photographers, and photography enthusiasts to participate in the district-level World Photography Day competitions. Entries must be submitted by 6:00 PM on August 5, with no extension. The contest will be held in three categories—Heritage, Tourism & Culture; Youth, P4, Economic Development & Welfare; and Best News Photograph. Winners will receive cash prizes of ₹10,000 (First), ₹7,000 (Second), and ₹4,000 (Third) in each category, along with six encouragement awards of ₹2,000 each. Photographs taken between June 12, 2025, and July 31, 2026, within NTR district are eligible. Entries should be submitted to the DPRO Office, State Guest House, Vijayawada. For details, contact K. Ravi, Divisional PRO (9010156550).



Sunkarametta PHC Selected for Tata Sanjeevani Digital Health Pilot



Paderu, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Alluri Sitharama Raju District Collector T. Nishanthi announced that Sunkarametta Primary Health Centre has been selected as a pilot project for the Tata Sanjeevani Digital Nerve Centre to provide advanced digital healthcare services to remote tribal communities. The initiative will enable digital health records, teleconsultations with specialists, online appointments, diagnostic referrals, and access to government health schemes. Residents can avail free services through the 155337 toll-free helpline or the Sanjeevani Citizen mobile app. The Collector also launched World Breastfeeding Week awareness activities during the visit.

services through the 155337 toll-free helpline or the Sanjeevani Citizen mobile app. The Collector also launched World Breastfeeding Week awareness activities during the visit.

'Digi Rythu Bazar' Launched for Doorstep Delivery of Fresh Produce

Guntur, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava said the Andhra Pradesh government has introduced "Digi Rythu Bazar" to provide fresh, quality vegetables and fruits directly to consumers' doorsteps through an online platform. The service, already operational in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, has now been extended to Guntur and Mangalagiri. Consumers can place orders through the mobile app or online portal, while produce sourced directly from farmers will be delivered to homes, ensuring better prices for farmers and fresh produce for consumers without middlemen.



219 Grievances Received at East Godavari PGRS and Revenue Clinic

Rajamahendravaram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri said all public grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic must be resolved within the stipulated time. A total of 219 petitions were received during Monday's grievance programme, covering revenue, rural development, police, energy, education and other departments. In a separate programme, District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore received 32 public complaints at the District Police PGRS and directed officials to ensure prompt action and provide justice within the legal framework.



Rs101.96-Crore Protected Drinking Water Scheme for Addanki Reviewed



Ongole, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar directed officials to expedite the ₹101.96-crore protected drinking water scheme for Addanki to ensure a long-term safe water supply. Reviewing the project with Public Health officials, he stressed that there would be no compromise on quality. The project includes 51-lakh-litre storage tanks, a 12 MLD water treatment plant, 83 km of water pipelines, and a 15 km feeder channel. The Minister also instructed officials to complete the ₹5.10-crore lake restoration and beautification project in Addanki on schedule.

Breastfeeding Is the Best Start for a Child: NTR Collector

Vijayawada, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said breast milk is the best source of nutrition for infants and plays a vital role in ensuring healthy growth, immunity, and mental development. He urged mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months and initiate breastfeeding within the first hour after birth. The Collector inaugurated posters and a wall magazine as part of World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7) at the Collectorate and directed health workers to create greater awareness about the importance of breastfeeding.



Collector Warns Officials Over Delay in Grievance Redressal

Ongole, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu warned officials against delaying the disposal of public grievances by repeatedly marking them as "In Progress." Reviewing the Mee Kosam grievance programme, he directed officials to resolve all pending petitions within the stipulated time and ensure quality, permanent solutions. A total of 332 petitions were received during Monday's programme. The Collector also said the government would begin collecting direct public feedback on welfare schemes after August 15 and cautioned that negligence in grievance redressal would not be tolerated.



Rice Sale Counters Opened at Seven Rythu Bazaars in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District In-charge Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari inaugurated a special rice sale counter at Seethammadhara Rythu Bazaar and announced that seven Rythu Bazaars in the district will have similar counters to provide quality rice at subsidised prices. Under the state 's initiative, white ration card holders can purchase an additional 10 kg of rice per month at prices lower than the market rate. The scheme aims to ensure affordable access to quality rice and reduce the financial burden on consumers.

Collector Inspects Site for Proposed AYUSH Hospital

GUNTUR, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma on Monday inspected the proposed site for an AYUSH Hospital and its allied institutions at Nadimpalem village in Prathipadu mandal. The Collector said the project, located close to Guntur city, would significantly improve access to traditional healthcare services for the public. RDO K. Srinivasa Rao, Tahsildar Venkateswara Rao, and other officials accompanied him during the inspection.



41 Rice Sale Counters Opened in East Godavari

Rajamahendravaram, Aug. 3 (Pen Power): East Godavari Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop announced that the government has opened 41 rice sale counters across the district under its rice price stabilization initiative. Rice is being sold at ₹52 per kg for RNR, HMT and similar varieties, and ₹50 per kg for BPT raw rice. Each ration card family can purchase up to 26 kg per month using Aadhaar authentication. The counters are operating at eight Rythu Bazaars and 33 rice mill outlets, providing quality rice at government-fixed prices.



Brij Bhushan Acquittal Sparks Buzz Over Political Comeback Ahead Of UP Polls

Lucknow: The acquittal of former Kaiserganj MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court in the alleged sexual harassment case involving women wrestlers has reignited political discussions over his future within the BJP and in Uttar Pradesh politics. While the verdict has brought him legal relief, it has also sparked fresh debate over whether the party will restore him to an active political role or continue to project his family's political leadership. Brij Bhushan had become a source of political discomfort for the BJP after allegations by women wrestlers surfaced in early 2023. Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party denied him a ticket from Kaiserganj and instead fielded his son, Karan Bhushan Singh. The decision was widely seen as an attempt to avoid political controversy while retaining the family's influence in the constituency. Karan Bhushan Singh went on to win the seat, indicating that the family's political network and Brij Bhushan's influence in the region remained largely intact despite the legal proceedings.

Political observers say Brij Bhushan never distanced himself from public life after being denied the ticket. He remained active across the four districts of the



Devipatan division, regularly attending public meetings, religious and social events, and maintaining contact with supporters. The large gathering of supporters at his Vishnoharpur residence after the court verdict has been viewed by many as not only a celebration of his acquittal but also a display of his continuing political support. Brij Bhushan has repeatedly stated at public events that he intends to return to Parliament. While those remarks were earlier seen as an attempt to reassure his supporters, the court verdict has renewed speculation over whether he could make a political comeback. Despite the acquittal, any decision on his political future will rest with the

BJP leadership. Political analysts note that the party is likely to weigh not only the legal outcome but also organisational priorities, electoral strategy, public perception and its broader political messaging before taking any decision. Two possibilities are being discussed in political circles. One is that Brij Bhushan could be assigned an organisational role during the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, particularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh and the Devipatan region, where he continues to command influence. Another is the possibility of his return to electoral politics ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections if political circumstances become

favourable. However, the BJP has made no official statement indicating any such move. Brij Bhushan's political strength is widely considered to be his extensive grassroots network across Gonda, Balrampur, Bahraich and Shravasti. His family's continued political presence has also helped preserve that influence. His son Karan Bhushan Singh represents Kaiserganj in the Lok Sabha, while another son, Prateek Bhushan Singh, is an MLA from Gonda. While the court's verdict has brought an end to the criminal proceedings against Brij Bhushan, questions over his political future remain unanswered. Whether the BJP decides to bring him back into a prominent role or continues to rely on his family's political representation will become clearer in the coming months. According to court records, the case began after women wrestlers levelled allegations against Brij Bhushan in January 2023. The trial lasted 1,133 days and involved 127 hearings, during which statements of 32 witnesses were recorded. Brij Bhushan had been on regular bail since July 20, 2023. Charges were framed on May 10, 2024, and after final arguments concluded on July 2, 2026, the court reserved its verdict before acquitting him.

2 Tourists Fall Into Valley After Rusted Railing Collapses At Palghar's Dabhosa Waterfall; Rescued Safely

Jawhar (Palghar district): In a tragic accident that occurred at the popular Dabhosa Waterfall in Jawhar, an old iron safety railing gave way, causing two tourists to fall into a nearby valley in Maharashtra's Palghar district. Upon witnessing the incident, nearby tourists, along with Forest Department personnel, immediately rushed to the spot to provide aid to the two tourists who had fallen into the valley. The visuals, which have gone viral on the internet, show local residents along with Forest Department officials trying their best to rescue the tourists using ropes. Following intense rescue efforts, both tourists were safely pulled out. A major accident occurred at the popular Dabhosa Waterfall in Jawhar, Palghar district, after an old iron safety railing



gave way, causing two tourists to fall into a nearby valley. However, due to the fall, the injured tourists were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment and are reported to be out of danger. Following the incident, which could have proved fatal had timely rescue operations not been launched, local residents demanded that authorities im-

mediately strengthen safety infrastructure and take preventive measures to avoid similar accidents in the future. Subsequently, the incident has raised serious concerns over the condition of the rusted safety railing and the adequacy of safety measures at the tourist destination. Meanwhile, in a similar incident, a car slipped and

plunged into a gorge on Garmal Road in Khopoli on Monday afternoon. However, the driver was safely rescued by local residents who witnessed the incident and stepped forward to help. Moreover, the car plunged into the gorge and became lodged between trees, appearing at risk of falling further at any time

Datia By-Poll: Congress Retains Seat, Defeats BJP By 6,056 Votes; Celebrations Held Across State

Datia (Madhya Pradesh): Congress defeated the BJP for the second consecutive time in the Datia Assembly by-election, with Congress candidate Ghanshyam Singh defeating BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by 6,056 votes. The BJP also lost at polling booth number 121, where former Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra is registered as a voter. The Congress secured 291 votes, while the BJP received 264 votes at the booth. During the 14th round of counting, the Congress secured 6,614 votes, while the BJP received 3,100 votes. The

Congress lead also surpassed its winning margin in the 2023 Assembly election. The Azad Samaj Party had secured 20,388 votes till the end of the 13th round.

Congress celebrates in Bhopal

As the counting trends continued to favour the Congress, party workers celebrated by distributing sweets, Melody toffees and bursting crackers at the party's state headquarters in Bhopal. The Datia Assembly seat fell vacant after Congress MLA Rajendra Bharti was sentenced to two years in prison in a cooperative ru-



ral development bank fraud case. In the 2023 Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, Bharti had defeated Narottam Mishra by 7,742 votes.

'Datia exposes true face of MP government'

Reacting to the result,

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Jitu Patwari credited the party's victory to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "The Datia election reflects Rahul Gandhi's efforts and the issues he has raised across the country.

'People Have Chosen Jan Suraaj': Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary Congratulates Prashant Kishor On Bankipur Bypoll Victory

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday congratulated Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor on his victory in the Bankipur Assembly by-election, saying he respected the mandate delivered by the people. In a post on social media, Choudhary described the election as part of the "great festival of democracy" and acknowledged the verdict in favour of the Jan Suraaj chief. "In the grand festival of democracy, the people have chosen Jan Suraaj in the Bankipur Assembly by-election. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Shri Prashant Kishor ji on his victory, while respecting the people's decision." The message stood out as a rare display of political courtesy amid Bihar's intensely competitive political landscape.

Prashant Kishor, founder of the Jan Suraaj Party and a political strategist-turned-politician, secured victory in the Bankipur Assembly by-election, defeating BJP



candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha in the Patna constituency. The bypoll win is being viewed as a significant milestone for the newly formed Jan Suraaj Party, which has sought to position itself as an alternative to the state's established political formations. Reacting to his victory, Kishor said the bypoll result was more than just the election of an MLA and should be seen as a message to the BJP's central leadership.

"This election is not just about choosing an MLA. It is about sending a message to the BJP's top leadership that Bihar deserves a capable Chief Minister who can provide better education and employment opportunities. The people have delivered that message," he said.

Kishor, however, acknowledged that the NDA would continue to remain in power in Bihar because of its comfortable majority in

the Assembly. While the by-election does not alter the balance of power in the Bihar Assembly, it is expected to have political implications ahead of future electoral contests in the state. Choudhary's public congratulations and Kishor's sharp political message have added another dimension to the Bankipur verdict, which is likely to be closely watched by both the ruling NDA and the Opposition in the coming months.

UP Monsoon Session: Opposition Raises Ram Temple Donation Theft Allegations, BJP Hits Back

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council witnessed noisy scenes on the opening day of the Monsoon Session on Monday as the opposition raised the alleged theft of donations from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, forcing the Chair to adjourn proceedings for 15 minutes. The Samajwadi Party moved an adjournment motion under Rule 105, alleging financial irregularities and corruption in connection with the alleged theft from donation boxes at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. As Leader of the House Keshav Prasad Maurya rose to respond, SP

members trooped into the well of the House, raising slogans and demanding a detailed discussion on the issue. With the uproar continuing, Chairman Manvendra Singh adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

Moving the adjournment motion, Leader of the Opposition Lal Bihari Yadav and SP member Kiran Pal Kashyap said stealing donations offered at a place of worship was a serious offence and alleged that the police investigation had been inadequate. They claimed that only lower-level individuals had been proceeded against while a

comprehensive and impartial probe had not been conducted. Lal Bihari Yadav alleged that 12 of the 15 members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust were associated with the RSS, while the remaining three represented the Uttar Pradesh government. He claimed the absence of an independent investigation had led to public anger over the alleged theft. Responding to the opposition, Deputy Chief Minister and Leader of the House Keshav Prasad Maurya rejected the allegations and accused the Samajwadi Party of politicising the issue. "Those

who did not contribute even a single rupee towards the construction of the Ram Temple are now talking about theft of donations," Maurya said. He also questioned the opposition over funds collected in the name of the Babri Masjid movement and accused the Samajwadi Party and the Congress of having worked against Hindu temples in the past.

Referring to the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya in 1992, Maurya said, "We are proud of the demolition of the structure in 1992." He also launched a political attack on the Samajwadi Party, saying it would face the consequences in the future.

Elite Mountaineer Nirmal 'Nims' Purja Killed In Avalanche On PoK Peak



New Delhi: Legendary mountaineer Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja was killed in an avalanche at Broad Peak, the 12th highest mountain in the world, an adventure company of the Nepali-origin climber and others said in a post on Instagram today. Purja and five other climbers had been missing since Friday after an avalanche struck them. "Today, it is with profound sadness

and immense heartbreak that we confirm that Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja, tragically lost his life following the avalanche on Broad Peak. We have also received confirmation that other members of the expedition sadly did not survive," the company, Elite Exped, said in the post. "Today, we mourn not only Nims, but every life lost in this tragedy including his trusted climbing partners

and guides, Pur Bahadur Gurung (Yukta) and Nima Sherpa. Our deepest thoughts, prayers and heartfelt condolences are with their families, friends and loved ones. No words can ease the pain of this unimaginable loss, and we ask that everyone respects their privacy as they grieve," the company said. Broad Peak is on the Karakoram mountain range,

straddling the border between Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan and Xinjiang, China - just a few kilometres from K2 in what is Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). The avalanche struck along Broad Peak's standard West Ridge route. This would be at an altitude between 21,600 and 21,850 feet. "The world has lost one of mountaineering's greatest climbers; a leader who inspired millions through his courage, humility and unwavering belief that human potential is far greater than we often imagine. More than his extraordinary achievements, he wanted to show the world what was possible when you dared to dream bigger, believed in yourself and refused to accept limitations. Through his actions, he inspired millions of people to believe that they too, could achieve more than they ever thought possible," Elite Exped said. "His vision, leadership and determination built Elite Exped,

Nimsdai Foundation, Skydive Nimsdai and Nimsdai Store into what they are today. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he changed and the people he inspired to climb their own mountains," it said. Purja was also a former member of Britain's Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal Marines' elite Special Boat Service (SBS). He had set several mountaineering records since becoming a full-time climber and expedition guide. In 2019, he created history by climbing all 14 mountains above 8,000 metres in just six months and six days under his 'Project Possible' expedition. In 2021, he was part of a team of 10 Nepali climbers that made the first successful winter ascent of K2. The Netflix documentary 14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible, turned Nims into the most recognisable figure in modern mountaineering, inspiring a wave of interest in high-altitude climbing.

How To Apply For Rs 2,500 Financial Assistance Under Delhi Laxmi Yojana

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the registration portal for the Delhi Laxmi Yojana at the East Delhi District Magistrate (DM) Office on Saturday, August 1. With the official launch, the registration process for eligible women under the scheme commenced. By noon, 1,083 registrations had been completed, according to figures shared by the government. Under the scheme, every eligible woman will receive financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per month. The monthly assistance, one of the BJP' key promises to women ahead of the Delhi Assembly election, is aimed at empowering women by enabling them to meet their day-to-day needs with dignity, self-reliance, and financial independence. The government has earmarked Rs 5,110 crore for the scheme in the 2026-27 financial year. It is hoping to release the first instalment after the scrutiny and approval of applications, around Raksha Bandhan on August 28.

portal - dly.delhi.gov.in and complete all eligibility questions.

Step 2: Fill personal details along with Aadhaar and basic information carefully.

Step 3: Enter all required family member details correctly.

Step 4: Provide applicant bank account details for benefit transfer.

Step 5: Upload all required documents in the prescribed format.

Step 6: Preview the complete application carefully and submit the final application.

Step 7: Upload a signed copy of MP/MLA Endorsement.

Step 8: Download and save the acknowledgement receipt for future reference.

Who Can Apply For Delhi Lakshmi Yojana?

An applicant must be a woman, aged between 21 and 60. She must also be the eldest female member of her family as on the date of submission of the application. Her annual family income must not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh, and she must



be a registered voter in Delhi. The applicant, her husband or either of her parents must have been a resident of Delhi for at least 10 years on the date of application. The household's electricity consumption during the previous 12 months must not exceed 2,400 units. Women receiving certain government pensions or regular financial assistance are not eligible. Income-tax payers, GST filers, government employees and holders of public office are also ex-

cluded. The benefit is also not available if the applicant or a family member owns a four-wheeler or works for the government, a public-sector undertaking, a board, local body or another government organisation. Applicants with more than three children or a criminal record are also excluded under the conditions listed on the portal.

Documents Required
Aadhaar Card
Delhi Voter ID Card
Photograph and Signa-

ture of the Applicant
Endorsement Letter from the MP/MLA of the Constituency
Residential Proof for 10 Years (Any One): Delhi Voter ID Card/ Ration Card/ Driving Licence/ Electricity Meter Bill, gas connection bill/ receipt
Age Proof (Any One): Birth Certificate/ School Leaving Certificate of class last attended/ Matriculation / Class 10 Certificate/ Driving Licence/ PAN Card/ Aadhaar Card/ Voter ID Card

23-Year-Old Wife Of International Kabaddi Player Dies By Suicide In Haryana



Rohtak: The 23-year-old wife of international kabaddi player Sheelu Balhara allegedly died by suicide at their home in Haryana's Rohtak district on Friday afternoon. Muskan, a resident of Rohtak's Meham area, married Sheelu in December 2023. The couple welcomed their son, Hardik, in November last year. Police reached the spot after receiving information, and a forensic team was called in to investigate the case. The reason behind the suicide is not yet

known. According to reports, Muskan had posted a reel on a Punjabi song just a day before taking the step. The incident comes days after a government teacher died by suicide in Dehradun, allegedly because she was being harassed by her husband and in-laws. Srishti Kandhari married Saurabh Raturi, who is also a government employee, in November last year. They lived in the Doiwala area,

about 20 km from Dehradun city. In her police complaint, Kandhari's mother alleged her daughter was harassed mentally and physically for dowry, while her husband and in-laws kept calling her "unlucky" and "inauspicious".

Kandhari recorded a video before hanging herself, which is being widely shared. "Sorry mummy, main aise ja rahi hoon (Sorry, I am leaving like this)," she blurts out between sobs. "Everything has become so strange. I have been en-

during this for six months... Now I can't endure it anymore. Their mindset can never change. They keep blaming me for things that happened after our marriage. (Calling me) 'manhoos, manhoos' (cursed)," Kandhari said in the 90-second video.

Chandigarh Lawyer Arrested For Shooting Woman In Face During Eviction Drive

Chandigarh: A court-ordered eviction drive in Chandigarh Sector 42 turned violent on Saturday after a woman was allegedly shot in the face by her tenant, who is a lawyer. According to the Chandigarh Police, officials had gone to the Sector 42 residence to execute a court order for handing over possession of the property. As the police team and court officials attempted to carry out the eviction proceedings, advocate JPS Chadha fired from inside the house with his licensed double-barrel shotgun. The bullet struck the owner, Manjinder Kaur, in the mouth, leaving her severely injured. She was im-



mediately taken to the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), where her condition is said to be critical. Confirming the incident, Deputy Superintendent of Police Dheeraj Kumar said a police team had accompanied officials to execute the court's possession order when the tenant opened fire instead of opening the door.

He was overpowered and arrested at the scene. "Forensic experts examined the crime scene, while investigators began recording statements of eyewitnesses and collecting evidence to establish the exact sequence of events," said an official. Police are also verifying all legal aspects related to the licensed firearm.

"Clean Up Waste Or...": DK Shivakumar Warns Bengaluru Property Owners



Piles of construction debris dumped along roadsides and on vacant plots have become an increasingly common sight across Bengaluru, raising concerns over cleanliness, public health and urban planning. To tackle the issue, the Greater Bengaluru Authority has launched a month-long 'Freedom from Waste' campaign focused on clearing construction and demolition waste and curbing illegal dumping. The drive, which will continue through August, targets construction and demolition debris, inert waste, tree branches and other waste lying in public spaces. Officials have identified 1,616 locations across the city with an estimated 22,730 metric tonnes of waste requiring removal. Speaking to NDTV, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the campaign is focused on eliminating both an eyesore and a public health hazard. "Over a period of time, weeds start growing over the debris, which becomes a source of health hazards because it turns into a nesting ground for mosquitoes, rats and snakes. People also start dumping household garbage over the debris. This spoils the look of

Bengaluru. This is the problem we are trying to tackle during August. A separate campaign on household waste will be taken up after this," he said. The campaign is being jointly implemented by the five city corporations under the GBA along with Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), BWSSB, BESCOM, BMRL, Indian Railways, K-RIDE, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), BDA and KIADB. The government has also warned owners of vacant plots to clear waste from their properties. "We have requested people to clean their vacant sites because rats and mosquitoes become a nuisance for the neighbourhood. If vacant sites are not cleaned by August 15, the respective City Corporations will remove the waste and recover the cost from the property owners," Gowda told NDTV. Officials said violators will face a Rs 25,000 fine for the first offence, while repeat violations can attract penalties ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also issued a stern warning, saying maintaining private properties is as much the responsibility of citizens as keeping pub-

lic roads clean is the government's responsibility. "Cleaning Bengaluru is part of the system and the entire community needs to join hands. Cleaning roads is our duty, cleaning vacant properties is their duty. If they have not constructed houses on their sites even after five years, we will issue notices to take back their property," he told NDTV. To support the drive, authorities have deployed 70 tippers to transport waste to designated disposal sites at Y a r a p p a n a h a l l i, Marenahalli, Venkatapura, Vittasandra and Kallubalu. Calling for public participation, Gowda said, "Bengaluru belongs to everybody, so it is everybody's responsibility to keep it clean. Our call to everyone is: 'Let's Just Clean Bengaluru.'" Meanwhile, Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya also appealed to citizens to support the campaign and take ownership of keeping the city clean. "Bengaluru, let's support this initiative and clean up our city. Whenever I travel to any other city in India, Bengaluru's debris, waste and bad roads pain me. Let's come together to clean up the city, one road at a time," he said.

Kartarpur Corridor To Remain Shut Over Security Concerns: Centre



The Centre has received representations from Sikh religious groups and organisations for "early reopening" of the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, but the extant security scenario compels the corridor to "remain suspended", the government informed Parliament on Friday. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in response to a query in the Lok Sabha.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was asked whether the government had received representations from Sikh community leaders, Members of Parliament and civil society urging "early reopening" of the corridor in view of its immense religious and emotional significance.

"An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the facilitation of Pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Pakistan, was signed on October 24, 2019 in order to fulfill the long-standing demand of the pilgrims to have easy and smooth access to the holy Gurudwara and to

operationalise the Corridor for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji," Singh said.

The agreement was extended for a further five-year period in October 2024. However, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the services of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor were suspended with

effect from May 7, 2025, he said.

"While the government has received representations from Sikh religious groups and organisations regarding Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, the extant security scenario compels Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor to remain suspended," the minister said.

14 km In 25 Minutes: Donor Heart, Lungs Rushed Across Hyderabad In Metro

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Metro Rail became an unlikely but crucial part of a life-saving mission this week, helping transport a donor heart and lungs across the city in time for a critical transplant. The heart and lungs were transported from CARE Hospitals in Gachibowli to KIMS Hospitals on Minister Road, Secunderabad. Using the Metro network, the organs travelled from Raidurg to Rasoolpura, a distance of 14 kilometres spanning 13 stations, in only 25 minutes. The journey took place between 11:40 am and 12:05 pm. Hyderabad Metro officials worked closely with doctors and hospital staff to plan and execute the operation, ensuring the organs reached their destination within the tight window required for a successful transplant.

Trump Keeps Announcing Pauses In Iran Strikes. But The Attacks Keep Coming



TELAVIV, Israel: President Donald Trump said late Saturday that he would halt new planned attacks on Iran pending renewed talks to wind down the war and revive stalled cargo traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

It was the latest in a pattern of announcements the US president has made to first threaten massive strikes and then later call them off. The abrupt shifts have been a defining feature of the five-month conflict that has sent prices of oil and basic goods soaring - and the announcements

to date have been upended by renewed attacks days or even hours afterward. Here is a look at some of Trump's past major announcements about pausing strikes against Iran: The United States and Iran agree to a two-week ceasefire to end the intense fighting that began on February 28 with Israeli and US attacks. Trump makes the announcement less than two hours before a deadline he had set for Tehran to capitulate or face attacks on bridges and power plants - strikes he said would mean "a whole civilization will

die." Trump announces that the US is indefinitely extending its ceasefire with Iran a day before it was to expire. He adds that he has been asked by mediators to hold off on attacks to give Iranian leaders time to come up with additional proposals. The fragile ceasefire lasts until May 8, when the US carried out strikes on Iranian tankers. After a weekend of dire threats against Iran, Trump says he is holding off on a major planned military strike because "serious negotiations" were underway. "There seems to be a very good chance that they can work something out. If we can do that without bombing the hell out of them, I'd be very happy," he said. By May 27, US strikes were back on after negotiations faltered. After two days of back-and-forth attacks, Trump threatens further escalation, saying the US would hit Iran "VERY HARD TONIGHT" and take "total control" of its oil and gas industries. Then, a few

hours later, Trump posts on social media that there had been a breakthrough in negotiations and called off the strikes. Trump signs an initial agreement with Iran that calls for a permanent end to hostilities and for reopening of the strait, and starts a 60-day negotiating clock to reach a final deal on the future of Iran's nuclear program. Trump left the door open to abandoning it. "It's a memorandum of understanding, and if I don't like it, we'll go back to shooting at them, dropping bombs," he said. After Iranian attacks on commercial ships in the strait, Trump launches new strikes on Iran while he is in Ankara, Turkey, attending the NATO leaders' summit. Later, he renews his threat to "just finish the job" on Iran after saying he believes the ceasefire is over. Trump says he has paused two weeks of intense, daily US strikes on Iran to give negotiations another chance. During 13 days of strikes,

the US military had targeted key military and commercial sites as clashes continued to escalate over shipping routes. In response, Iran had launched missiles and drones across the Middle East at countries that host US troops. After telling reporters the US would hit Iran "very hard," Trump says on social media that he has cancelled planned strikes, claiming Mideast allies had reached the parameters of a deal to end the war, including a reopening of the strait. "Based on this request, I have agreed, for the future benefit of the WORLD and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL," Trump said. In response, Iran's defense minister said that the country was "neither surprised nor passive" following Trump's announcement and said Iran continues to remain alert in the face of threats.

Last Time Mountaineer Nirmal Purja Was Seen On PoK Peak Before Avalanche Hit

Kathmandu: The last known photograph of renowned climber Nirmal "Nims" Purja and his expedition party has surfaced online, purportedly taken not long before they were swept away by a massive avalanche on one of the world's highest mountains in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Karakoram range. The 43-year-old British-Nepali climber, along with nine others, died at approximately 5,700m on Broad Peak when they were swept away by an avalanche last week. Pakistan-based tour operator Karakoram Vision shared the photograph of the climbers, claiming it was taken on July 30 shortly before the avalanche struck

the 8,051-meter mountain in the Karakoram range. "Our team captured this footage yesterday, July 30, right before tragedy struck. We were watching from base camp and could clearly see the 10 international climbers--including world-famous mountaineer Nirmal "Nims" Purja--pushing up the mountain," the tour operator wrote in a post on Instagram, along with a video showing Purja's team before the avalanche hit the peak. "Suddenly, a massive avalanche triggered above them. After the snow cleared, we scanned the upper slopes with horror. No one was visible anymore. It's a big tragedy on Broad Peak," the caption added.

Body Recovered
Rescuers recovered Purja's body on Sunday after an avalanche killed him and nine team members on one of the world's highest peaks in northern Pakistan. The avalanche struck on Thursday, cutting off contact with the international expedition led by Purja on Broad Peak. "The ground rescue team has reached Nims Dai (Purja) at approximately 5,700 m on Broad Peak -- a mountain he loved, and a mountain that has now taken him from us," the club posted on social media. The club's general secretary, Ayaz Shigri, said a ground rescue team was transporting four bodies -- including those of Purja, two other Nepali nationals



and a Chinese citizen -- down from the mountain. "Due to the extremely hazardous terrain and prevailing conditions, it is unlikely that a recovery attempt will be made at this stage," he added. Purja's expedition company confirmed on Saturday that no team members had survived. Regional authorities said the remains of three climbers -- an Omani

woman, a Nepali man, and an American woman -- had been recovered and flown to the city of Skardu on Friday. The avalanche has sparked an outpouring of shock in the mountaineering community, especially in Nepal, and leaders including Britain's Prince William have expressed condolences to the families of the climbers.

'Kids As Young As 15 On Pakistan's Target': Inside The Deadly PoK Protests



Islamabad: The loud-speaker calls from mosques that once echoed in the streets of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in the 1990s have returned, but this time across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Pakistan-occupied region, where local Imams (clerics) in Muzaffarabad are desperately urging Kashmiris to join forces against the atrocities committed by Pakistani forces. In the 1990s, the same mosques were used to lure people living on the Indian side of the border, said SP Vaid, former Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, recalling the tough period of anti-India militancy in the region. He recalled that at the behalf of the Pakistan Army, announcements were made from across the LoC promising a 'bright future' in Pakistan. Hearing the promises made from the Salotri mosque on the other side, several young men from the Poonch district in J&K

crossed over to PoK. "Karma is hitting back. The region that Pakistan's Army and its spy agency ISI once used to export terror and unrest is now witnessing an uprising of its own," he added. In the last two months, over 100 people have been killed across the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in clashes between security officials and protesters led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). At least 50 people have died in just a week in the region that is home to about 4.5 million people and where elections are taking place currently.

Young Men on Islamabad's Target
The BBC recently gained access to Rawalakot, another epicenter of protests, and spoke to those at the heart of the agitation. A local doctor, who has set up a makeshift clinic near the main protest site in PoK's Rawalakot, told the British publication that most civil-

ians who have been killed or seriously injured are young people between about 15-16 years old and 32-35 years old. "I have seen very few patients over the age of 40," Dr. Anwar (name changed due to safety reasons) said. He said that while his clinic can provide basic first aid to people who are being shot by Islamabad's forces, they need medical assistance to take care of critically ill patients. "We have enough supplies to provide first aid. We can stop bleeding, clean and dress wounds, and remove superficial bullets. But patients with serious injuries to the chest, abdomen, head, or other vital organs need advanced hospitals...Even major hospitals would struggle if many such patients arrived at the same time," he added. Ali, a young man who was visiting his friend admitted at Dr. Anwar's clinic, said, "We only asked for affordable flour, electricity, and our

basic rights." Wiping his tears away with his shawl, Ali added, "Instead, our brothers are being killed. What was our crime? Why are live bullets being fired at us?" BBC also spoke to Asma, who herself was at the protest when she heard her only son had been shot. "We were only asking for our rights. We are not terrorists. No mother could ask for a better son," she said. "He knew there were risks, but he believed standing up for justice was important. He used to say that dying for a just cause was an honour," Asma added. Salman, another Rawalakot resident, lost his younger brother. "He was the youngest in the family and was loved by everyone. It is a great loss for us. At the same time, I feel proud that he gave his life while standing up for the rights of the people. He was not fighting or attacking anyone," he said. Ayub, a former Pakistani soldier, also lost his son in the police crackdown. He, however, did not blame the Pakistan government or military but instead pointed fingers at the government in PoK, saying they were the ones who called in the paramilitary forces. "I am a retired soldier. I lived through the martial law periods of General Zia-ul-Haq and General Pervez Musharraf," he said. "But I have never seen anything like what is happening now. In my opinion, it is extreme injustice. My son had done nothing wrong. None of the

protesters had done anything wrong."

What Do Protestors Want

Protesters from the JAAC claim the demonstrations are for their rights, with concerns including electricity prices, education, and health care. An agreement signed with the Pakistan and PoK governments back in October was meant to help, but JAAC has alleged it was not implemented. They said the protests are the result of a lethal mix of inflation, power cuts, flour shortages, and decades of military repression, persecution, discrimination, and oppression. But the immediate trigger has been the killing of civilians by the Pakistani security forces during peaceful demonstrations last month. The local government disagrees. They say the group, which was banned in June, is armed and that this is about disrupting the ongoing polls. Authorities are not willing to let the protesters march to the regional capital, Muzaffarabad. Security experts have said that Islamabad is rattled by these demonstrations. With the PoK slipping out of control, Pakistan is now trying to divert attention by pushing terror into the Kashmir valley—as seen in the recent targeted killings in Kulgam and Anantnag, said Commodore Dalbir Singh Sodhi (Retd), security analyst and political commentator.

Israel Voices 'Serious Security Concerns' Over Hamas Disarmament Deal



Tel Aviv, Israel: Israel has shared "serious security concerns" with the White House regarding the proposed disarmament deal with Hamas, an Israeli official said as Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday evening killed at least 17 people, including children, in Gaza. The remarks by Doron Spielman, spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, were some of the first public comments since US President Donald Trump announced the agreement. Spielman told The Associated Press that Israel's intelligence assessment is that Hamas remains committed to rebuilding its military rather than genuinely demilitarizing. He said the Israeli military would not withdraw from Gaza - where it controls more than 60% of the territory - before Hamas disarms. "Our assessment is that if we redeploy before Hamas is truly disarmed, it will quickly expand its presence throughout Gaza, rebuild its terrorist infrastructure, once again threaten Israeli communities, and seek to carry out another Oct. 7-style attack," he said, referring to the Hamas militant attack on Israel in 2023 that triggered the war in the Gaza Strip. "Disarming means physically giving up the weapons. Nothing less," Spielman said. His comments come days after Hamas said that it would begin disarming as part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire signed nine months ago to end the nearly three-year-long conflict. It marks a potential breakthrough in ending the conflict, but many hurdles, conditions and long timelines remain. Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan calls on the militant group to surrender its weapons and destroy its vast network of tunnels. It also envisions Israeli forces withdrawing from Gaza, the arrival of a new technocratic Palestinian government, deployment of an international security force and the rebuilding of the battered Palestinian enclave. Hamas disarming has been a sticking point and has deadlocked negotiations for months. In announcing the deal on social media on

Thursday, Trump said it would be carried out in "carefully structured phases." A copy of the agreement obtained and verified by the AP said that all weapons held by the Hamas-run police will be transferred to the U.S.-backed Palestinian technocratic committee, known as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, upon its arrival in the enclave. It's not clear when that would happen since it is contingent on other steps. A process to decommission and store heavy weapons and to dismantle military production sites and tunnels will begin after the arrival of the Palestinian committee and the deployment of international forces. The process will be linked to a phased Israeli withdrawal, according to the agreement. The areas Israel controls in Gaza have been mostly destroyed and depopulated. Most of the territory's 2 million Palestinians are in the other part, where hundreds of thousands live in squalid tent camps and destroyed neighborhoods. Israel appears unlikely to pull back significant forces or make other concessions ahead of its October elections. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces a tough reelection battle, with his far-right coalition partners urging him to keep up the pressure on Hamas and leave forces in Gaza, and opponents accusing him of failing to prevent the October 7, 2023, attack. Hamas-led militants attacked Israeli communities then, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 others hostage. Israel responded with a punishing military offensive that has killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The ministry, which was part of the recently dissolved Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by UN agencies and international organizations. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all fatalities. While Spielman said Israel greatly

appreciates Trump's commitment to its security and to finding a durable resolution, the government's position on disarmament is based on detailed intelligence saying that Hamas continues to rearm, recruit fighters, and rebuild its military capabilities. The White House did not provide additional comments on Sunday, when asked specifically about Israel's assessment that Hamas remains committed to rebuilding its military. US officials, who briefed reporters on the disarmament agreement last week, said that Israel had been consulted at every step of the negotiations and was not being asked to do anything more than what it had committed to as part of the ceasefire and hostage release agreement signed last October. It's unclear what exactly Israel conveyed to the White House. Two people with knowledge of the deal told the AP that Israel had communicated its issues with it to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who's part of the Trump-led Board of Peace. One of them said that among the points Israel wanted was freedom to conduct military operations in Gaza. They spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the media. According to another person familiar with the deal, the Israelis raised two other issues: that Qatar and Turkey not be involved in verifying the stages of the agreement, and that Hamas' weapons be destroyed after confiscation. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Since the ceasefire was signed last October, Israel has continued striking Gaza, saying it's targeting Hamas and its infrastructure. Local Gaza hospitals said at least 17 were killed in the latest Israeli strikes, including children. A strike on a residential apartment in southern Gaza killed three family members, including their 4-year-old child, according to Nasser hospital, where the bodies arrived. The Israeli military said the strikes had targeted militant operatives.

US Man Breaks 306-Year-Old Record To Become Youngest Male Professor

A young engineering teacher from Florida has entered the record books after becoming the world's youngest male professor. He earned the title after taking up a teaching position at a college before turning 19, reported People. According to Guinness World Records, Nathan Thomas became the world's youngest male professor after accepting an engineering teaching position at Miami Dade College at the age of 18 years and 346 days. The record had been held by Colin Maclaurin for 306 years after he became a professor at the age of 19. Thomas is also 16 days younger than the current holder of the world's youngest female professor record, Alia Sabur, who became a pro-

fessor at the age of 18 years and 362 days in 2008. According to the GWR news release, Thomas began teaching COP 2270: C for Engineers at Miami Dade College in August 2023. He taught students who were the same age as him. Speaking to GWR, Thomas said that once people are in the classroom, everyone is there for the same reason, which is to learn, and age does not really factor into that. He added that he simply focuses on doing his job well and helping students in whatever way he can, and said that if someone is willing to put in the effort, that is all that matters to him. As a qualified teacher, Thomas is responsible for teaching complex computing and programming concepts to his class.

Thomas was just 10 years old when he dual-enrolled at Miami Dade College before transferring to Florida International University at the age of 14. Over the next four years, he completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering with honours. Thomas, who comes from a family of engineers, said that mathematics always came naturally to him as he grew up. He told GWR that his mother had a way of making difficult things feel simple, and he believes that stayed with him more than he realised at the time. Speaking about teaching, Thomas said the part he enjoys the most is watching a concept suddenly make sense for a student after seeming impossible just moments earlier.

MB Failed in Mangapuram, All Eyes on Paradise's Maalik

Mohan Babu is a versatile actor. The Pedarayudu actor is back in the limelight as he continues to bag important roles in films of late. The latest is that he was recently seen in Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's acting debut, Srinivasa Mangapuram.

Expectations were high for Mohan Babu's character in Mangapuram, but it failed to leave a mark. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, MB's role couldn't make a lasting impact.

Now, all eyes are on Nani and Srikanth Odela's much-awaited The Paradise. Mohan Babu will be seen as Shikanja Maalik. The recently released look and teaser have garnered good attention. Ever since Mohan Babu was roped in for The Paradise, there has been a strong buzz in industry circles. As the film nears completion and is all set to hit the screens on Sep-



tember 24, the hype and buzz surrounding it are only escalating. Directors like SS Rajamouli have successfully banked on Mohan Babu, cast-

ing him as Lord Yama in the socio-fantasy film Yama Donga, starring Jr NTR in the lead role. Will Srikanth Odela recreate that magic with MB in

The Paradise? Will Mohan Babu score a hit with The Paradise after Srinivasa Mangapuram failed to make an impact? Let's wait and watch.

Massive: The Paradise Clocks 80+ Crore Biz In AP & TS?

Natural Star Nani's The Paradise is red hot in the trade right now. The movie is registering sensational business everywhere. Mythri locked Nizam rights of the film for a whopping 37 Crore (with 2 Crore Recovery). Sithara Naga Vamsi and Paradise Producer Sudhakar Cherukuri each have a 25% stake in Nizam. Andhra Business is going on in the 35 Crore ratio. In Ceeded, the Producer is asking for 12 Crore NRA but Sobhan is ready up to 10 Crore. The Producer is not budging. Nani's highest Pre-release Business is around 40 Crore for HIT 3. And now, we already have 82-84 Crore just from AP and Telangana. That means the movie has to do wonders at the box office and record new benchmarks in openings for a Nani-starrer. The Paradise is being planned for a September 24th release with Premieres on the 23rd in India and Overseas.



Raashi Shows Why She's Timelessly Stylish

Raashi Khanna is serving an overdose of glamour in her latest photoshoot, proving that nearly one and a half decades in the industry have only elevated her style game. The actress effortlessly blends confidence with elegance, reminding everyone why she continues to be one of the most fashionable faces in Indian cinema. Dressed in a black lace bralette, high-waisted denim, and an oversized leather jacket, Raashi keeps it chic yet bold. Her soft wavy hair, subtle makeup, and striking poses make every frame look effortlessly glamorous. On the work front, Raashi has a good lineup of Hindi films in the pipeline. She is also set to return with the much-awaited Farzi 2, adding another exciting project to her growing pan-India filmography.

Outgoing India fielding coach T Dilip pens emotional farewell after five-year stint



New Delhi: Outgoing India fielding coach T Dilip on Monday penned an emotional farewell note as his time with the national men's team came to an end, saying that the journey meant a lot to him, and admitted to having difficulty in finding right words to sum up his successful five-year tenure. Dilip, who joined the team in November 2021, has left the Indian set-up after his contract was not renewed following India's T20I tour of Zimbabwe. In his place, Subhadeep Ghosh has taken charge as the fielding coach and will travel with the team to Sri Lanka for the two-game series starting on August 15. "Five years. It's difficult to find the right words for a journey that has meant so much. When I first walked into this setup, I came in with one simple intention, to give everything I had every single day. Fielding has always been my way of contributing to the game I love, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have played a part in this team's jour-

ney," wrote Dilip on his Instagram account on Monday. Highlighting the iconic fielding medal tradition that brought a light-hearted yet competitive energy to the Indian dressing room after matches, especially during the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, Dilip shared how deeply the initiative resonated with the squad. "The fielding medal will always hold a very special place in my heart. Seeing the excitement it created in the dressing room, the smiles it brought and the value the players attached to it are memories I'll carry with me forever. I will always cherish being part of: Two ICC Men's T20 World Cup triumphs (2024 & 2026) ICC Champions Trophy triumph (2025) Two Asia Cup triumphs (2023 & 2025) Runners-up at the ICC World Test Championship & ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (2023) and several unforgettable journeys on the world stage," he added. Hyderabad-based Dilip further expressed his gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India

(BCCI), former head coach Rahul Dravid, current head coach Gautam Gambhir, and the various captains he worked under. "A heartfelt thank you to the BCCI @indiancricketteam for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to serve Indian cricket. To #Rahul Dravid and @gautamgambhir55, thank you for your trust. It was a pleasure to work alongside both of you. "To @rohitsharma45, @surya_14kumar, @virat.kohli, @h a r d i k p a n d y a 9 3 , @shubmangill and @shreyasiyer96, it was a privilege to work with each of you and contribute during your time as captains. And to every player, coach and member of the support staff... thank you. The memories we've created together will stay with me for the rest of my life. "As this chapter comes to a close, I'll always be grateful that, for five unforgettable years, I had the honour of wearing the India badge. Forever grateful. The journey continues," he concluded.

Virat Kohli's aggression keeps cricket alive, says former umpire Anil Chaudhary

New Delhi: Former international umpire Anil Chaudhary believes high-energy personalities like Virat Kohli are vital for the sport to retain its charm, while revealing that the star batter acts aggressively out of pure competitive spirit without any malice. Kohli, who recently played in India's 2-1 ODI series loss to England, will be next seen in action during the series against the West Indies in September. "Actually, my advantage with Virat was that I had officiated his matches since childhood, so I have known him for a long time. He doesn't have any malice. He reacts aggressively sometimes, but if you're right, he'll give you a thumbs up too. Between overs, he'll come over and put a hand around your waist. But he is lively throughout. Players like him should be there; otherwise, the game will get boring," Chaudhary said on JioHotstar. Reflecting on the fiery on-field altercations in the IPL, including the famous heated exchange between Kohli and Gautam Gambhir in 2013, Chaudhary noted that aggression is intrinsic to northern players and brings a unique flavour to the game, provided it stays within limits. "I knew something like that would happen because all of them from the North play with aggression. I have played local cricket too, and our players have always played like this. If they don't play with that aggression, their performances won't come out as well. The flavour of the game won't be there if you put



too many restrictions on the players. But there's a limit, and it shouldn't be crossed." Turning to the ongoing debate surrounding run-outs at the non-striker's end, Chaudhary defended the mode of dismissal while predicting that cricket authorities might soon introduce a structured penalty mechanism to curb batters taking an unfair start. "The dismissal is fair in cricket. The batter at the non-striker's end is running so far ahead that the advantage he gets is that he has only a few more steps to cover to reach the other end, which is unfair. "I think very soon, in a year or two, a rule will come in with a warning system, one warning, two warnings, and then a run penalty. Because it's unfair. Many times, on the last ball, the non-striker starts running early, and the

striker does the same. So, what's left for the bowler?" he said. Former India opener Aakash Chopra shared a humorous story from an Australian tour involving former opener Virender Sehwag and veteran umpire Steve Bucknor. "Whatever Sachin Tendulkar wanted to say, Viru (Virender Sehwag) would pass on as messages. He was standing next to Steve at square leg and asked, 'Steve, how old are you?' Steve said, '52' or '53', whatever it was. "Viru then said, 'Steve, you can't hear, you can't see, you should retire.' So, I asked Viru, 'Are you mad? He'll give you out!' He replied, 'He's giving Tendulkar wrong decisions anyway. If he's going to keep giving wrong decisions, what's the difference? At least let me speak my mind!'" Chopra recalled.

Arshdeep Singh named in North Zone squad for Duleep Trophy, Kanhaiya Wadhawan to captain

New Delhi: India's left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh was on Monday named in the North Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy with Jammu and Kashmir's wicketkeeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan appointed captain of the 15-member side.

Arshdeep, a white ball specialist for Team India, was included in the Test squad during the 2025 tour of England but injury and combination related

issues didn't allow him to make his red ball debut.

Another Test team discard, Haryana's Anshul Kamboj, was also included in the North Zone squad for the tournament starting August 23. Fresh from Jammu and Kashmir's historic Ranji Trophy triumph, the selectors rewarded the champion side with six players in the squad. Besides Wadhawan, opener Qamran Iqbal, all-rounder Abdul Samad, left-arm

spinner Abid Mushtaq, pacer Sunil Kumar and fast bowler Yuthvir Singh were included.

Delhi's Ayush Badoni was named vice-captain, while veteran Jammu and Kashmir skipper Paras Dogra, 41, was not considered for the tournament as Duleep Trophy is more about players trying to make a mark at national level.

Pacer Auqib Nabi will be unavailable as he is on national duty.